

U.S.S.N. 09/800,855

Filed: March 7, 2001

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently Twice amended) A method of treating, inhibiting, or preventing mucositis in a human patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of or undergoing radiation treatment or chemotherapy, a combination selected from the group consisting of an a NSAID, an inflammatory cytokine inhibitor, or a mast cell inhibitor, in combination with and an effective amount of an MMP inhibitor to alleviate the symptoms of the mucositis, and

a NSAID, an inflammatory cytokine inhibitor or mast cell inhibitor, and an effective amount of an MMP inhibitor to alleviate the symptoms of the mucositis.

2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, comprising administering as the NSAID a COX-1 or COX-2 inhibitor.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the COX-1 inhibitor is indomethacin or flurbiprofin.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, comprising administering an inflammatory cytokine inhibitor selected from the group consisting of an IL-6 inhibitor, a TNF-alpha inhibitor, an IL-1 inhibitor, and an interferon-gamma inhibitor.

5. (previously amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the inflammatory cytokine inhibitor is a TNF-alpha inhibitor.

6. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the MMP inhibitor is a tetracycline.

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7. (previously amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the tetracycline is minocycline.

Claims 8 and 9 canceled.

10. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the TNF-alpha inhibitor is thalidomide.

11. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 comprising administering a mast cell inhibitor selected from the group consisting of an antihistamine, a serine protease inhibitor, and a degranulation inhibitor.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the NSAID, inflammatory cytokine inhibitor, or mast cell inhibitor, and MMP inhibitor are provided mixed together in a composition.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the composition is a liquid adapted for use as an oral rinse.

14. (original) The method of claim 12, wherein the composition is a solid adapted for oral ingestion.

Claims 15-22 canceled.

23. (currently amended) The method of claim 22-1, wherein the mucositis is induced by chemotherapy.

24. (currently amended) The method of claim 22-1, wherein the mucositis is induced by radiation therapy.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 22-1, wherein the patient is a cancer patient preparing to undergo chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

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26. (currently amended) The method of claim 22 1, wherein the patient is a cancer patient currently undergoing chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

27. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the mucositis is oral mucositis.